WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a finishing system having at least one finishing device that is controlled separately from production equipment and that is to be used during a finishing job, a method for a finishing job coordinator, comprising:

a) receiving finishing job description information, including identification of job segments of the job; and

b) communicating programming data for programming at least one finishing device for implementation of the finishing job.

2. The method of **Claim 1**, wherein the step of communicating comprises communicating to human operators for human programming the finishing device.

3. The method of **Claim 1**, wherein the step of communicating comprises automatically programming the finishing device.

4. The method of **Claim 1**, wherein the step of communicating comprises identifying the input locations to the finishing device in which the job segments are to be placed.

5. The method of **Claim 1**, wherein the step of receiving comprises receiving a job segment identifier for at least one job segment.

6. The method of **Claim 5**, further comprising using the job segment identifier to retrieve finishing job information relating to the job segment from a data source wherein a finishing job model pertaining to the finishing job is stored.

7. The method of **Claim 6**, further comprising using the job segment identifier to retrieve finishing job information for all job segments of the finishing job.

8. The method of **Claim 6**, further comprising extracting status information relating to a plurality of job segments identified in the job model.

9. The method of **Claim 8**, further comprising notifying an operator if at least one job segment is not in a status ready for finishing.

10. The method of **Claim 5**, wherein the step of receiving further comprises receiving the job segment identifier from a virtual finishing job ticket reader.

11. The method of **Claim 5**, wherein the step of receiving further comprises receiving a job segment identifier entered by a human operator.

12. The method of **Claim 1**, wherein the step of receiving finishing job description further comprises receiving information identifying at least one finishing device to be used in performance of the finishing job.

13. The method of **Claim 12**, further comprising determining whether the identified finishing device is available for performance of the finishing job.

14. The method of **Claim 13**, further comprising, in response to determining that the identified device is not currently available, communicating issuing commands to program the availability of the identified device.

15. The method of **Claim 13**, further comprising, in response to determining that the identified device is not currently available, notifying human operators that the identified device is not available.

16. The method of **Claim 13**, further comprising, in response to determining that the identified device is not currently available, amending the job model to select a different thread for finishing of the job.

17. The method of **Claim 16**, further comprising creating different job segments in order to conform to the amended job model.

18. The method of **Claim 12**, wherein the step of receiving information identifying at least one finishing device further comprises identifying finishing devices to used during a portion of the finishing job wherein devices remain unidentified for at least one finishing operation to occur after performance by the identified devices.

19. The method of **Claim 1**, wherein the step of communicating further comprises communicating programming information for device configuration attributes.

20. The method of **Claim 19**, further comprising programming at least one finishing device in adaptation to the capability and constraint attributes of a second finishing device.

21. The method of **Claim 1**, wherein the step of communicating comprises communicating using the Modular Feeding and Finishing Architecture protocol.

22. The method of **Claim 1**, further comprising:

a) receiving data that job segments of the job have been placed in at least one input location of the finishing device; and

b) after receiving data that the job segments have been placed in such input location, issuing instructions for the commencement of operation by the finishing device.

23. The method of **Claim 1**, further comprising providing data for tracking the finishing job.

24. The method of **Claim 23**, wherein the step of tracking comprises using a sheet counting feature of at least one finishing device to count sheets.

25. The method of **Claim 23**, wherein at least one job segment is identifiable by a job segment identifier and wherein the step of tracking comprises tracking the job segment by tracking its job segment identifier as such job segment identifier moves through the finishing job.

26. The method of **Claim 23**, wherein the step of tracking further comprises monitoring the condition of at least one finishing device used in performance of the job.

27. The method of **Claim 26**, further comprising, in response to a tracked condition of at least one finishing machine, issuing commands to adjust performance conditions of at least one finishing device.

28. The method of **Claim 23**, further comprising, in response to a pause in performance of at least one finishing device, issuing commands to pause at least one other finishing device.

29. The method of **Claim 28**, wherein the pause in performance is caused by the jamming of workpieces within the finishing device.

30. The method of **Claim 28**, further comprising issuing restart commands after the cause of the pause has been cured.

31. The method of **Claim 23**, further comprising sending tracking data for a completed job to a central database of the finishing system.

32. The method of **Claim 1** wherein the step of receiving comprises receiving information descriptive of a document finishing job.

33. In a finishing system having at least one database for storing information concerning the capability and constraint attributes of devices within the system and for storing job segment description information and for storing a job model that includes a description of the components of a job together with the order in which the components are to be assembled, a method for a finishing module coordinator, comprising:

a) retrieving job segment and job model information from at least one database;

b) determining the status of job segments;

c) determining the status of devices to be used for processing the job; and

d) monitoring performance of the job as the devices operate.